

A NEW SPECIES OF *SCAPTIA* (*MYIOSCAPTIA*) MACKERRAS (DIPTERA: TABANIDAE: PANGONIINAE) FROM QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

GREG DANIELS

*University Insect Collection, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland,
St Lucia, Qld 4072*

Abstract

A new species of *Scaptia* Walker is described: *S. (Myioscaptia) ferromontana* sp. n. from Iron Range, Cape York Peninsula, Queensland.

Introduction

Seven species of the endemic genus *Scaptia* (*Myioscaptia*) Mackerras were recorded from Australia by Mackerras (1960), with an additional species, *S. (M.) inopinata* being described by Fairchild and Mackerras (1977). The subgenus has a distribution along coastal eastern Australia from Cairns/Kuranda in northern Queensland south to Jarvis Bay in southern New South Wales (Mackerras 1960: fig. 21). One species is known from southwestern Western Australia. The new species runs to couplet 2 in Mackerras' 1960 key but differs in having a non-metallic scutum and abdominal sternites. The new species significantly increases the known distribution of the subgenus approximately 600 km northwards.

Scaptia (Myioscaptia) ferromontana sp. n.

(Figs 1-6)

Types. *Holotype* ♀, AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND): 'Eclectus', Iron Range, 12°44'S 143°15'E, 28.xii.1995, G. and A. Daniels (Australian Museum). *Paratype* ♀, same data (Australian Museum).

Diagnosis. A small, *Hemipyrellia*-like species, with a mostly black abdomen with blue reflections, black thorax with a pair of grey dorsocentral vittae, with flat, yellow-brown palpus, femora mostly black, tibiae and tarsi whitish; vein R₄ without appendix; cell r₅ narrowed but not closed. Length 9.5-10.4 mm.

Description. Female (Figs 1-6). Head: Eyes uniformly brown-black in life; with brownish black ommatrichia. Frons and ocellar tubercle covered with ashy tomentum, through which the blackish, indistinct callus is visible, and with black setae; lower part slightly protuberant. Subcallus greyish fawn, paler around antennae; parafacial with brown and grey reflections and inconspicuous brown setae; face dark brown, with thin greyish tomentum and black setae. Antenna: Scape pale greyish yellow, pedicel more yellowish, setae on both black; flagellum yellowish brown. Palpus with 1st segment brownish yellow and black setae; 2nd broad, flat, leaf-like, brownish yellow, with inconspicuous marginal black setae. Beard mostly black.



Figs 1–6. *Scaptia* (*Myioscaptia*) *ferromontana* sp. n. female. (1) antenna; (2) palpus; (3) head, anterior view; (4) head, lateral view; (5) dorsal view; (6) wing.

Thorax: Scutum black becoming orange laterally, with sparse grey tomentum and a pair of grey dorsocentral vittae; scutellum black but with an indication of orange; setae on disc black, golden-orange along lateral margin; notopleural setae golden-orange with a few black elements dorsally; supra- and postalar tufts mostly orange-yellow; marginal scutellar setae mostly golden-orange. Pleura brownish orange, darkening ventrally; pleural setae golden-orange, except on the katepisternum, which has black setae.

Legs: Femora brownish-black, pale yellowish apically, black setose; tibiae and tarsi entirely pale yellow, yellow setose.

Wing: Hyaline; stigma dark brown; veins orange-brown; vein R4 without appendix; cell R5 narrowed at wing margin.

Abdomen: First tergite orange with orange setae, second tergite orange anteriorly becoming black posteriorly, setae on disc black, becoming orange laterally, third tergite narrowly orange anteriorly becoming black with blue reflections posteriorly, mostly black setose, remaining tergites black with blue reflections with black setae. First sternite orange, second tergite orange anteriorly becoming black with blue reflections posteriorly, third tergite narrowly orange anteriorly becoming black with blue reflections posteriorly, remaining tergites blue-black, with black setae.

Comments. The closest location for another species of *Scaptia* (*Myioscaptia*) is at Kuranda, some 600 km south of Iron Range, where *S. (M.) violacea* (Macquart) and *S. (M.) inopinatus* Fairchild & Mackerras occur. *Scaptia* (*Myioscaptia*) *ferromontana* can immediately be distinguished from both species in lacking the shining blue-green/violet reflections on the thorax and abdomen. Extensive collecting (light trapping, hand netting and malaise traps) at Iron Range by the author over many years yielded only two specimens of this species. Both were attempting to bite about the ankles.

References

- FAIRCHILD, G.B. and MACKERRAS, I.M. 1977. A new species of *Scaptia* (*Myioscaptia*) from northern Queensland (Diptera: Tabanidae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 79: 53-56.
- MACKERRAS, I.M. 1960. The Tabanidae (Diptera) of Australia III. Subfamily Pangoniinae, tribe Scionini and supplement to Pangoniini. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 8: 1-152.